

The deregulation of media ownership that is currently under consideration presents a great threat to the marketplace of ideas that is so important to American democracy. The currently existing rules are essential to keeping bloated corporations and their conflicting interests from further invading our lives and deciding what we can and cannot see, hear or read about. The radio industry underwent similar deregulation several years ago and the results have been disastrous - the same homogenized, predictable dreck pollutes the airwaves across the country. And the argument that the Internet and an increased number of cable channels have made the old rules obsolete is simply wrong. Most cable channels fall under the ownership of the same corporations looking to seize locally owned TV stations while the Internet has yet to establish itself within the public as a legitimate, sustainable source of news. In conclusion, the FCC should leave the rules as is. It's the government's job to preserve the marketplace, not facilitate a few private entities' control of it.